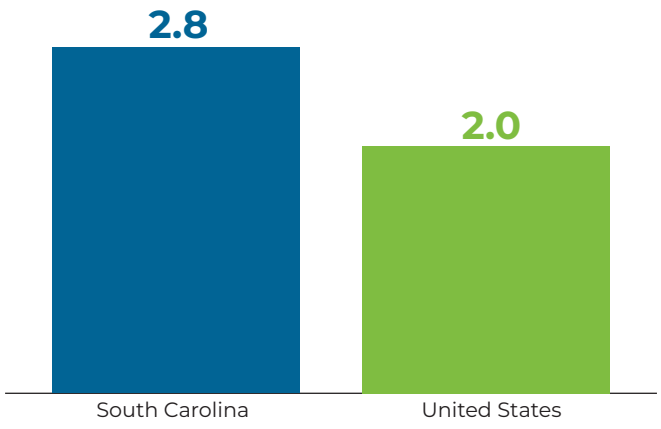
Firearms & Safety

Pediatric Firearm Deaths in South Carolina

Owning a firearm is a huge responsibility. Injuries involving firearms can be deadly and even non-fatal incidences can cause significant injury and disability. From 2003–2020, **540 South Carolinians aged 0-17 died** due to a firearm discharge.

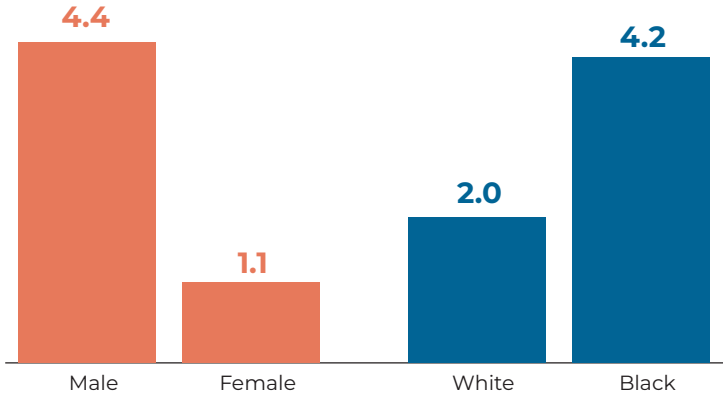
FIREARM MORTALITY

Pediatric Firearm Deaths
Rate per 100,000 population



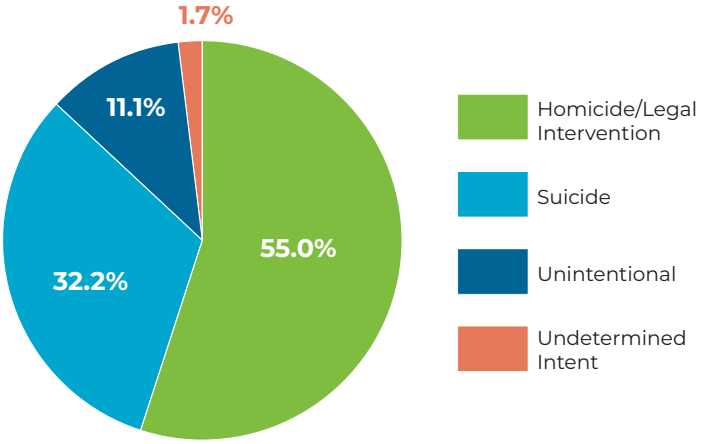
Source: CDC WISQARS, 2003-2020

Pediatric Firearm Deaths, by Sex and Race
Rate per 100,000 population



Source: SC VDRS, 2003-2020

Pediatric Firearm Deaths, by Manner
Percent



Source: SC VDRS, 2003-2020

The pediatric firearm death rate in South Carolina is **40% higher** than the national rate.

4 out of 5 pediatric firearm deaths in South Carolina were **male**.

The rate of pediatric firearm deaths for Blacks was **two times higher** in South Carolina than Whites in the state.

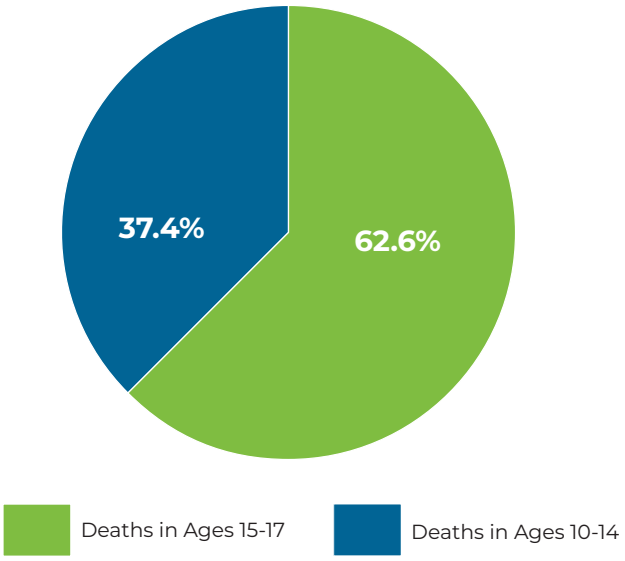
½ of all pediatric firearm deaths were **homicide**.

CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEATH

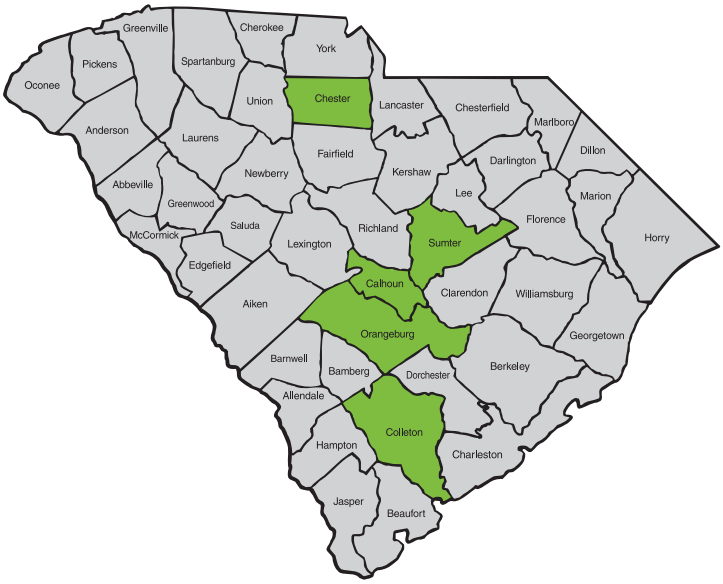
33.1% of pediatric firearm deaths where at least one precipitating circumstance was known were related to some type of **relationship problem**, including family, friend, partner, etc.

19.5% of pediatric firearm deaths, or nearly 1 in 5, where at least one precipitating circumstance was known were **precipitated by another serious crime** (e.g., drug dealing, robbery, etc.)

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION



62.6% of all pediatric firearm deaths occurred in those aged **15–17**, three times higher the percent seen in those aged 10–14 (20.7%)



Calhoun, Colleton, Orangeburg, Sumter and **Chester** counties had the highest rates of pediatric firearm deaths in the state.

$7,381

The average **medical cost** of a pediatric firearm death in 2020 in South Carolina.

29,223

Years of **potential life lost** due to pediatric firearm injuries in South Carolina from 2003–2020.

SOURCES:

1. SC VDRS, 2003-2020
2. CDC WISQARS, 2003-2020

Notes: Data includes both South Carolina residents and non-residents whose fatal injury occurred within the state.

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